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Strybing Arboretum Society Annual Report

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Message from *Alexandra Scott* *Strybing Arboretum Society President*

It is with great pride that I invite you to read through our 1997 annual report, which we believe showcases one of the strongest years of growth in Strybing Arboretum Society's 42-year history. The Society is at a turning point, and under the dynamic leadership of a new Executive Director, much of the groundwork was laid this year for the creation of a garden equal to the major public gardens of the world. At year-end, we are pleased to announce a number of initiatives we have taken to make this vision of the Gardens a reality. Through a collaborative effort between the Society and the Gardens, the California Native Garden is being renovated, a grand new plan for the New Zealand Garden is underway and the beautiful new Entry Garden is complete.

One of the most important outcomes of 1997 was the completion of the Strategic Plan. The Plan's four major goals will guide us in planning for and achieving our vision of the Gardens.

- Collection, Cultivation and Display: to obtain and cultivate plants from around the world and display them in collections that will inspire, educate and enrich the lives of visitors.
- Education and Information: to help children and adults acquire knowledge, skills and information related to gardening, horticulture and botany, and instill in them an appreciation of the value of plants and the relationship between people, the environment and nature.
- Communications and Visibility: to define a clear identity for Strybing and establish an ongoing, professional marketing and public relations program and relationships with related organizations and individuals that will increase the visibility of the Gardens both locally and around the world as well as expand participation and support by visitors, members, donors and volunteers.
- Organizational Development: to develop the human and financial resources, organizational structure and facilities needed to accomplish the goals and objectives for the Gardens and provide services for members and visitors to enhance their experience of and support for the Gardens.

Thanks to our talented staff, dedicated board and devoted volunteer corps, there is a willingness to invest in the future of our treasured Gardens. The Strategic Plan has created the momentum we need to take the next critical steps to creating a world class botanical garden.

Alexandra Scott

Mission Statement

Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens is a living museum for the enjoyment and exploration of the natural world. As a public garden, we serve the residents of San Francisco, the Bay Area community and our visitors by:

- cultivating and displaying a unique and diverse collection of plants from around the world in a setting of exceptional beauty;
- educating children and adults in gardening, horticulture, botany and the natural environment, and;
- instilling appreciation of the value of plants in our lives and the importance of conserving them.



Leila Sirk helps a mother and daughter create a wreath at Strybing's Holiday Gifts & Greens event.



Message from

Charlotte Cagan
Executive Director

As you read through this Annual Report, you will be struck, no doubt, by the level of activity the Society experienced in 1997, much of it laying the necessary groundwork for achieving the ambitious goals we have set for ourselves, primarily to bring Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens to world-class status.

While the Strategic Plan occupied our attentions, numerous other initiatives were simultaneously underway throughout the year. We formed several new committees, including a Marketing Advisory Committee and Youth Education Advisory Committee, both composed of experienced professionals representing diverse segments of our community, and we expanded our Plant Collections Committee. Several new Trustees were added to our growing roster of volunteers committed to elevating Strybing's status. Our development program took a great leap forward, as did our special event offerings, with the addition of a luncheon hosted by the Jordan Winery, an expanded Library Benefit, the Society's most successful May Plant Sale to date and a spruced-up holiday Greens & Gifts Sale. Each of these events is scheduled for a return engagement in 1998.

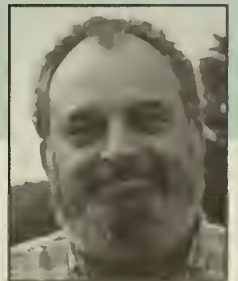
While these events increased our community visibility, a new public relations coordinator position was planned, to respond to our need for greater visibility on a sustained basis. Society staff were added in various support positions to fulfill current needs and in anticipation of carrying out our Strategic and Master Plans. During 1997, our volunteer, member and donor base all grew as well, in response to carefully planned strategies and implemented by new staff with the requisite energy, professional skills and belief in Strybing's future.

Two key Gardens projects were planned for fruition in 1998 and beyond: a dramatic new Entry Garden and a new three-acre New Zealand Garden. Finally, we began discussions with the Recreation & Park Department to revise our longstanding partnership so that the Gardens can achieve the vision articulated in our Master Plan.

None of these activities would have been possible without the tireless and devoted support of you, our members, volunteers and donors, to whom we are extremely grateful.

Message from

Walden R. Valen
Director, Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens



The year 1997 brought continued and increasing support of Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens by Strybing Arboretum Society. Funds were allocated by the Board and additional funds were raised for the new Entry Garden. Also, supplementary funds were made available for three new garden interns.

Planning was started for the New Zealand Garden, our first major garden renovation that will adhere to the Master Plan guidelines. Also included in this plan is a proposal from the Signage Committee to interpret the theory of Gondwana. This area of the Gardens will be called Gondwana Circle, and some exciting and innovative ideas are being formulated around the concept. Completion of both the New Zealand Garden and the Gondwana Circle will be a grand beginning for the Master Plan and will usher in Strybing as a garden for the 21st century.

Development Committee

Dixon Long

Board Vice President & Development Committee Chair

Identifying and securing new financial resources for Strybing Arboretum Society had a high priority during 1997. Members of the Development Committee approached a small number of long-time friends, to ask for commitments of \$10,000 per year for three years. This effort will provide bridge funding for improvements of all kinds in the operations of the Society, until a more ambitious capital fundraising program for the Gardens can be undertaken. Not one person turned us down, and the effort continues into 1998 with a goal of \$150,000.



More donors supported the Society by contributing to the Strybing Circle at a level of \$1,000 or more. Membership increased, as did the average contribution, strengthening the base of support on which every successful organization is built.

In August, the Jordan Winery hosted an elegant lunch for friends of the Society in the Napa Valley. The year ended with a delightful Christmas toast for trustees and major donors at the home of President Alexandra Scott.

Early in 1998, Jasmin Tuan became our new Development Director, and quickly acclimated to the position. With several new Development Committee members, and plans to begin corporate fundraising and planned giving programs, we anticipate an active and productive year ahead.

Development

Jasmin Tuan

Development Director



The development department had an extremely productive year in 1997. The annual Circle Campaign was very successful, bringing in a record level of contributions. Long-time Strybing donors continued to lend their support and new donors to the Strybing Circle were recruited. Strybing's membership grew by leaps and bounds providing critical annual support for the Gardens and the Society's public programs.

A Major Donor Campaign was launched under the leadership of Development Committee chair Dixon Long, President Alexandra Scott, Executive Director Charlotte Cagan and Gardens Director Walt Valen. This campaign solicited gifts of \$10,000 per year for three years to support organizational development in anticipation of implementing the Master Plan. As of the end of 1997, every prospect solicited for this program has pledged support. Strybing is grateful to these donors and inspired by their faith and confidence in the work of the Society.



Strybing interns teach youngsters about the plants growing in the Children's Garden.

Larry Esch
Administration/Development



Membership

Christine Landrum
Membership Manager

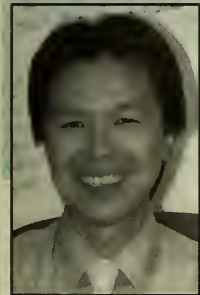


The Membership Department recruited new members at plant sales, educational events and the San Francisco Landscape Garden Show. These events, in addition to the direct mail program, served as the greatest source of new members to Strybing Arboretum Society. The Society acquired a record 1,000 new members in 1997.

The Nursery discount program was expanded to include more than 40 Bay Area nurseries, which offer a 10% discount on purchases to members as well as providing a network for information about the Gardens. The membership renewal rate saw a significant increase which strengthened Strybing's partnership with its members as well as providing a network for information about the Gardens. A Membership Advisory Committee was formed to assist with the growth of the membership program and its services. These steps are the basis for a comprehensive membership plan, as part of the Strategic Plan, whose goal is to increase the membership to 10,000 by the year 2002.



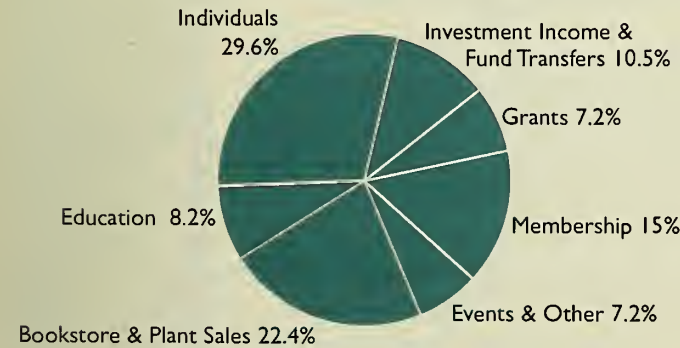
Shioko Seab is one of the many dedicated volunteers whose efforts make Strybing an extraordinary place.



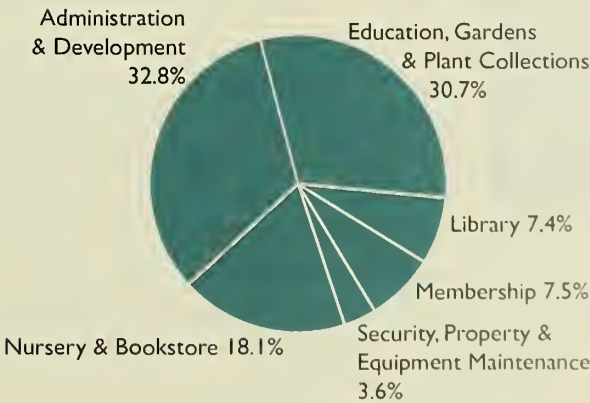
1997 Operating Budget

William Gong
Accounting Manager

SUPPORT & REVENUES
 (Total Support & Revenues \$1,102,240)



EXPENSES
 (Total Expenses \$1,102,240)



Plant Collections Committee

Pat Stocker
Plant Collections Committee Chair



The Plant Collections Committee was reinvigorated in 1997 with the assembly of a large, diverse, highly experienced and active committee. The committee met to advise on a broad range of proposed Gardens issues and projects, and subcommittees were appointed to pursue specific proposals in greater depth.

The Committee initiated a process for large theme garden renovations by circulating a request for proposals to eight West Coast landscape architectural firm for development of a master plan for the New Zealand Garden. Following a series of interviews, the Committee selected the San Francisco firm of Tito Patri Associates to develop plans for the New Zealand Garden in 1998. Similarly, Planet Horticulture, a Berkeley

design-build firm, was commissioned to design and install the new Entry Garden.

Building upon goals set out in the Society's 1997 Strategic Plan, the concept and scope for an assessment of the Garden's maintenance and horticultural staffing requirements were defined, and horticultural consultant Scot Medbury was engaged to assist with this and other Gardens projects.



The new Entry Garden showcases plants from Strybing's collections.



Scot Medbury
Horticultural Consultant

Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture

Barbara M. Pitschel
Head Librarian



1997 marked the 25th anniversary of the Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture. The silver jubilee was celebrated by the second annual Library benefit, held in September.

During 1997, the Library resumed its seven-day-a-week schedule. Collections continued to grow, with 386 new books cataloged and 115 bound periodicals accessioned into the collection. A total of 1,700 books were given to the Library, many of which contributed to the success of used book sales, which exceeded \$6,000. Art exhibits experienced record sales of \$15,000.

1997 saw considerable growth in the children's collection. Children's Story Time themes were expanded to include the first two Spanish/English bilingual programs and a new Asian theme.

The library served more than 21,000 patrons on site and by phone, mail, and email, and librarians answered nearly 4,000 reference questions. Twenty-one library orientations served 446 students. Library staff was assisted in providing services and maintaining collections by about 40 volunteers who contributed more than 4,800 hours of time.



Eloira James
Assistant Librarian

Education Department

Betsy Flack

Education Director



The Education Department offered 30 evening lectures of which 15 were cosponsored with the California Horticulture Society or the California Native Plant Society. Twenty-six courses were offered (86 class meetings/field trips) in the subjects of gardening, design, photography and illustration, nature study, taxonomy and botany and the Certificate Program in Ornamental Plants. The department cosponsored the sixth annual design symposium in February with *Horticulture* magazine, attended by 400 people. Along with the California nurserymen, an additional 150 people attended the Strybing Seminar the day before the symposium.

Five all-day garden tours visited private gardens in Piedmont, Napa and Sonoma counties and San Francisco. Five overnight field trips were made in search of wild flowers, gardens and specialty nurseries. Twenty people joined Strybing's eight-day birding and botanizing trip to the Chiricahua mountains in southeastern Arizona. Strybing also sponsored travel tours to Borneo in September, Italy in October and Ecuador for Thanksgiving.

Sixty volunteer docents, trained by the Education Department, led walks in the Gardens for children and adult visitors. By conducting 12 general tours of the gardens per week, the docents gave a total of 623 tours to more than 3,500 visitors in 1997.

The Education Department offered a 24-session training course to prepare new volunteer docents to guide children, families and adults on walks in the Gardens. In addition to the day-time classes, the 27 participants attended two evening seminars a month on botanical subjects. These evening seminars were open to all other Strybing volunteers, members and the public.

Kitty Fisher

Office/Education Assistant



Youth Education Program

Annette Huddle

Youth Education Coordinator



In 1997, docents led over 150 school groups, primarily from the San Francisco Unified School District, on walks in the garden. More than 4,000 students in kindergarten through eighth grade participated in these guided theme walks.

During the summer, groups from day camps, recreation programs and summer schools made 34 visits to the Children's Garden as part of the "From Acorn to Oak" program. Six interns engaged the children in a variety of hands-on activities, including planting, watering, harvesting, bird watching and pond exploration. The Children's Garden, with its bean tepees, pumpkin patch and butterfly garden, also served as an outdoor classroom for a number of teachers who brought their students to work and harvest in the Gardens during the fall.

Special family activities during the year included the "Bean Sprouts" family gardening days, a children's wreath-making class and two butterfly garden field trips. An Arbor Day celebration and garden cart activities completed our public outreach efforts for the year.

A Youth Education Advisory Committee was convened and charged with developing a plan for the future direction of the Youth Education Program.

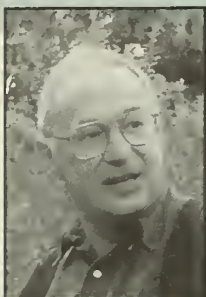


Gardener Andy Stone shares ethnobotanical stories with Lowell High School students as part of their introduction to the Gardens

Docent Program

Peter R. Dallman

Chair of the Docent Council



Docents represent a vital interface between the Gardens and the public. This year, docents have guided a larger number of adult visitors to the Gardens than in the past. There continue to be more requests for children's walks that can be accommodated. It is likely that more tours can be given in the future with the addition of an outstanding group of 22 new docents from the class of '98.

In 1997, 4,772 children took tours with docents. The most popular tours are the *Ohlone Walk* for grades 3 and 4, which is focused on the use of plants by Native Americans, *First Look at Plants* for grades K and 1, *The Redwood Trail* for grades 3 to 5 and *Web of Life* for grades 2 to 8.

In 1997, 3,571 visitors took a total of 623 tours. In 1995 and 1996, the number of visitors was 2,945 and 2,779 respectively. The busiest months in 1997 were April, May, July, August, September, and October, each with over 300 visitors taking tours.

The training of a new class of docents has been a great success, in no small measure due to the enthusiastic participation of the Docent Training Committee along with the SAS Education Department. Docents were more active than previously in interviewing and selecting the candidates, planning the curriculum, conducting seminars, leading demonstration walks and monitoring practice walks in the gardens. This degree of involvement creates a supportive feeling of community among new and experienced docents and provides practical experience in touring the gardens from early in the course.

As a group, the docents are among the strongest supporters of Strybing. We look forward to the exciting changes in the Gardens as we approach a new century.

Nursery

Don Mahoney

Horticulture Manager



Strybing Plant Sales set new records in 1997. Both the May Annual Plant Sale and the Saturday Plant Sales' revenue increased sharply—to \$62,810 and \$98,202 respectively. This is \$40,000 more than the revenue generated in 1996.

Exceptional publicity of Saturday Plant Sales brought in new customers, as well as new members. The seventy nursery volunteers did an outstanding job meeting the increased demand, both in propagating more plant material and in providing expert advice at the plant sales. The majority of plants sold continue to be propagated from cuttings and seeds in the Strybing Nursery.

Nursery staff also extended outreach to the horticultural community through 20 lectures and workshops. These included, in addition to Strybing education programs, lectures to the Western Regional American Rhododendron Society, the Western Regional Garden Clubs of America Annual Judges' workshop, the California Horticultural Society and the Western Horticultural Society.



Strybing's Annual Plant Sale always attracts a large crowd of eager shoppers.

Plant Collections Department

Bian Tan

Plant Collections Manager



1997 was a busy year for the Plant Collections Department. Six hundred and sixteen labels were placed in the Gardens, and a total of 796 accessions were processed including seeds and propagules obtained from 42 local and international institutions.

In 1997, I led a natural history tour to Borneo, the first time in approximately ten years that a Strybing staff member has led a major overseas tour. As part of a collaborative exchange between Strybing and the Indonesian Botanic Gardens, I brought back seeds and cuttings for Strybing's Old World Cloud Forest. In return, Ida Arinasa, head of the Bali Botanic Gardens, planned to visit the Bay

Area in October 1998, assisted with funds from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust. The Borneo tour and collaborative exchanges with Indonesia and Malaysia resulted in a series of slide lectures at Strybing, UC Berkeley Botanical Garden and the California Horticultural Society.

Strybing Bookstore

Margot Sheffner

Bookstore Manager



The Strybing Bookstore may be the smallest bookstore in San Francisco, but its small size does not prevent it from being an essential component of Strybing Arboretum Society. The Bookstore contributed significantly to Strybing by serving as the visitor center for Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens and by producing critical revenue to support the work of the Society. During 1997 the bookstore was open 350 days from 10 am to 4 pm. Its able staff of 30 contributed 2100 hours fielding thousands of questions from visitors and handling hundreds of sales transactions for customers. Total sales for 1997 were a record-breaking \$130,000, exceeding budget goals for the year by \$20,000.

I also expanded sales beyond the walls of the Bookstore by selling books at numerous Strybing educational programs and events. Book sales at the two-day symposium in February cosponsored by Strybing and *Horticulture* magazine exceeded \$10,000 for the second year in a row. Book and gift sales at the Holiday Greens & Gifts Sale in December surpassed \$5,000.

Public Relations

Cheryl Reiss

Public Relations Coordinator



Great strides were made in the area of public relations during the year 1997. The Strategic Plan, completed in November 1997, is designed to ensure that Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens will achieve and sustain a significant public presence and visibility in the immediate community, as well as around the world.

Goals of the Strategic Plan include making Strybing a primary destination for domestic and foreign visitors to the Bay Area, as well as local residents. The Strategic Plan also calls for the creation of a distinctive identity for Strybing, and the implementation of a comprehensive marketing and public relations plan. Arrangements were made to hire a public relations coordinator in order to provide adequate staffing and support to carry out the Strategic Plan's objectives. I began work with the Society in early 1998.

Donors 1997

Thank You to the generous donors whose contributions make all the difference in keeping the Gardens and educational programs thriving

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Summer visitors stroll past a carpet of clarkia, buckwheat and golden grasses in the Garden of California Native Plants.



Leucadendron, South Africa



Gunnera, Chile

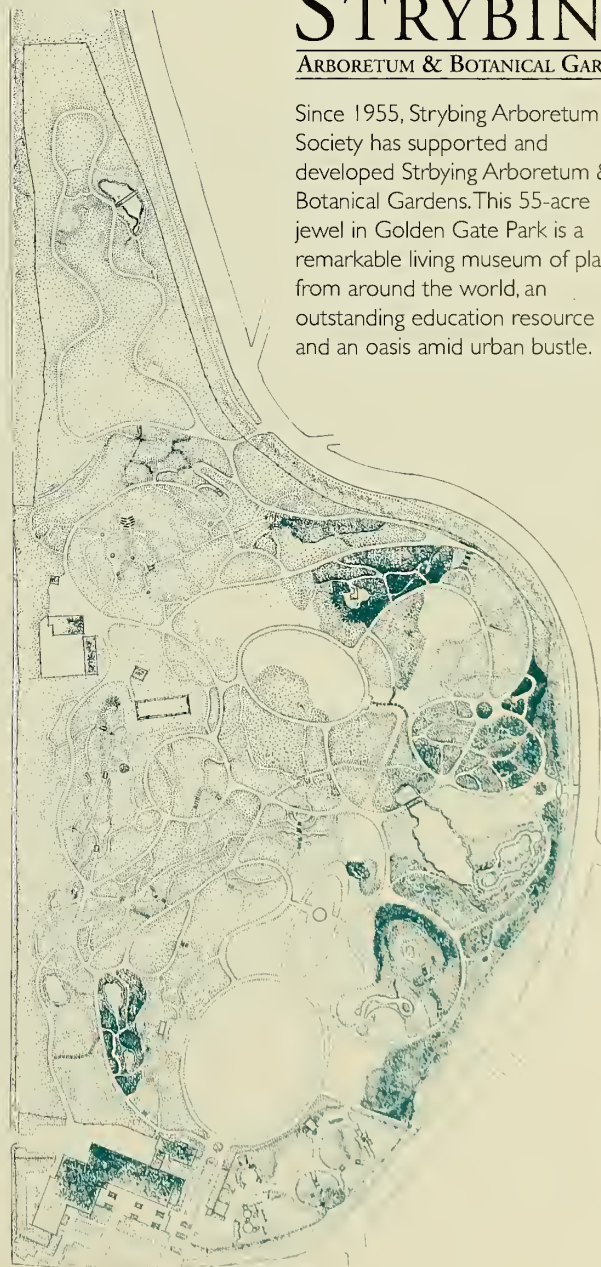


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STRYBING

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Since 1955, Strybing Arboretum Society has supported and developed Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens. This 55-acre jewel in Golden Gate Park is a remarkable living museum of plants from around the world, an outstanding education resource and an oasis amid urban bustle.





Photography students take a closer look at the Gardens.

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 Schon Canelis, *Garden Greeter*

Charlotte Cagan, *Executive Director*

Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens Staff-1998

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 Susan Nervo, *Park Section Supervisor*
 Aleck Koomanoff, *Nursery Specialist*
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 Dudley Sherrill
 Terry Seefield
 Paul Sotak
 Andy Stone

Custodians

Russell Helmer
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The Strybing Arboretum & Botanical gardeners.

Strybing Arboretum Society

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Board President's Message

AS THE CALENDAR ROLLED FROM 1999 to 2000, the media focused our attention on milestones. Whether you considered 1999 the last year of the millennium or not, it was an important year for Strybing Arboretum Society and the garden we support. Several milestones are especially worthy of attention by Strybing members and friends.

After 20 years of dedicated service, Walt Valen retired as Garden Director. Walt's vision helped shape the garden. Through years of lean City budgets, Walt fought for funding and worked to maximize the available resources. As evidence of his commitment to Strybing, Walt continues to participate as a volunteer.

The Recreation and Park Department launched an extensive nationwide search for a new Garden Director and found the best candidate literally right in our own backyard — Scot Medbury. Scot was well known to many Strybing volunteers because of his consulting work with the Master Plan refinement. Those of us who had worked with Scot knew him to be experienced, knowledgeable and a warm, positive person. In our public-private relationship with the City, the role of the Garden Director is pivotal to the success of the garden working closely with the Society. As an indicator of our strong partnership with the City, representatives of the Society participated on the Search Committee and in the finalist interviews. We know that Scot is the right person to lead our effort to make Strybing a world-class botanical garden.

Building community awareness of Strybing has been an ongoing struggle in a city with so many attractions. Our public profile received a big boost in 1999 with *Up a Tree*. This exhibition of architecturally intriguing tree houses and creative birdhouses drew more than 32,000 visitors to the garden over its 10-day run and generated extensive media coverage. Hats off to Trustee Missy Jensen and Show Director Laurie Jake for pulling off our most ambitious special event ever in such grand style.

As 1999 drew to a close, I completed my second term as President of the Society and turned the gavel over to the very capable hands of Bill Gaede. It was my honor to lead a dedicated and conscientious Board of Trustees and to represent the interests of the members and supporters of Strybing Arboretum Society.

As we look to the new millennium, many challenges face public botanical gardens. With your continued support, however, Strybing will continue to grow and flourish.

GINGER NICHOLS, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OUR MISSION

LITTLE ONES GET
HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE
IN THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN.



Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens is a living museum for the enjoyment and exploration of the natural world. The Strybing Arboretum Society serves the residents of San Francisco, the Bay Area community and our visitors by:

Supporting the cultivation and display of a unique and diverse collection of plants from around the world in a setting of exceptional beauty;

Educating children and adults in gardening, horticulture, botany and the natural environment, and;

Instilling appreciation of the value of plants in our lives and the importance of conserving them.





Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens

San Francisco Recreation & Park Department

1999 WITNESSED SEVERAL important milestones, among them a change in the Arboretum directorship as well as a renewed commitment to serving our community. Walden Valen, director of the Arboretum since 1979, retired in April, leaving a rich legacy of garden and plant-collections development. Following Walt's departure, Assistant Park Superintendent Dan McKenna stepped in to provide interim leadership, and spearheaded a national search that resulted in Scot Medbury's appointment in December as the Arboretum's sixth director.

A fundamental issue emerged during the selection of the new Arboretum director, and concerned the Recreation & Park Department's community-service mandate. During the discussion, Park Superintendent Audree Jones-Taylor advocated for encouraging visitation and engendering ownership in the Arboretum by all San Franciscans. To that end, Arboretum staff began pursuing collaborations that could help bring greater cultural diversity to Arboretum events. One such collaboration, initiated in 1999 with volunteer staff of the Strybing Arboretum Society, created the popular and highly successful Lunar New Year Flower Market. Large, bright-red banners identified both the event and the Arboretum in Chinese characters, while rare citrus, orchids and traditional cut flowers attracted a diverse crowd. Events like this bring smiling new faces to the Arboretum, as do outstanding children's programs.

Both formal and informal youth-education opportunities remain among the best programs Strybing has to offer. Many children grow up to remember a family outing or a class field trip to a botanical garden throughout their lives. At the conclusion of a recent visit, one young visitor was overheard telling his parents he wanted to visit "Our Burrito" again soon, ensuring that his trip to everyone's Arboretum will never be forgotten!



Strybing Arboretum Society

STRYBING ARBORETUM & BOTANICAL Gardens is a magical place on its own. Add in Strybing's fantastic team of docents and the Gardens come alive even more for both children and adults. Children, in particular, are drawn to the beauty of the Gardens and are able to make a special connection as a result. Strybing docent Leila Sirk tells two true stories to illustrate: "During a program at the childrens' garden, there was a five-year old boy who couldn't sit still, couldn't listen, and couldn't pay attention. Even the other children did not want to interact with him. As we were on our way out, we passed an old eucalyptus tree. The boy looked up in wonder at the tree and said, 'I've never heard the wind sing in the trees before.' That was a magical moment for me - the boy was able to connect with nature through the eucalyptus tree."

"Once I was teaching a group of children. In the group was a learning-disabled five-year-old boy. He did not seem to be engaged in the program until the end, when he made the connection between a pine cone with seeds we found on the ground, and the surrounding pine trees. He suddenly jumped straight up into the air, laughing and shouting with passion and recognition at this simple fact of nature. It was so infectious that all the other children started jumping up and down with joy."

It is the docents that have the talent and training to bring out the full beauty of the Gardens. Strybing Arboretum Society is sincerely grateful for the time, energy and commitment of its volunteer docents. The Society also wishes to express its appreciation for the work of Docent Chairman Dr. Joe Barbaccia who played an integral part in making 1999 such a successful year.

team work

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STRYBING'S DEDICATED TEAM OF
VOLUNTEERS CREATE SPECIAL EVENTS
IN THE GARDEN YEAR-ROUND.



STRYBING ARBORETUM SOCIETY 1999

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Sharon Starr, *Bookstore Assistant*
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Jasmin Tuan, *Development Director*

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Dan McKenna, *Interim Director*
Susan Nervo, *Section Supervisor*
Alek Koomanoff, *Nursery Specialist*
Elaine Calderon, *Reservations Secretary*

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Steve Drosos
Bob Fiorello
Julie Johnson
Steve Marek
Barbara Nicholson
Owen O'Connor
Terry Seefeld
Dudley Sherrill
Paul Sotak
Andy Stone
Hristo Zahov

Custodians
Russell Helmer
Charles Scott

Up a Tree

UP A TREE WAS A MAJOR EVENT IN 1999. Thirteen breathtaking tree houses and forty-one amazing birdhouses filled the Demonstration Gardens for a spectacular ten-day exhibit. Thirty-two thousand people flocked to see this unique collection of outdoor architecture.

The roster of participating architects was impressive: Ace Architects, Fernau & Hartman, Gensler Design, Mark Horton Architecture, Lundberg Design, G.K. Muennig, NBBJ Architects, Pfau Architecture, Richardson Architects, Skidmore Owings & Merrill, Stanley Saitowitz Office, Studios Architecture, and Tanner Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects. Their tree house designs were inspired by the worldwide regions in Strybing's plant collections.

Children especially enjoyed the opportunity to climb in, up, over and through the tree houses. They enjoyed the incredible views afforded by the tree houses, and participated in special workshops designed to stimulate their growing imaginations.

Hundreds gathered at the Preview Party to be the first to see the extraordinary tree houses. It was also a chance to meet the architects and contractors who brought these designs from dream to reality.

Strybing Arboretum Society extends a heartfelt thank you to the generous sponsors who made this memorable event possible: BargainHut.Com; Calegari & Associates Real Estate; California State Automobile Association; Canon Computer Systems; Cole Hardware; Hill & Company; Kajun Graphics; McGuire Real Estate; Melissa Bay Mathis; Mitchell Group; Mk-Ultra; Peter Nelson; Pacific Union Residential Brokerage; Safeway; Sharper Image; Sydran Services; Tree Top; Union Bank of California Foundation; Wilson-Cornerstone Properties; and Wells Fargo Bank.





STRYBING'S MONTHLY PLANT SALES OFFER GARDENERS A CHANCE TO BUY PLANTS PROPAGATED FROM STRYBING'S OWN COLLECTIONS.

Nursery

STRYBING'S NURSERY PLAYS A VERY large role in conservation, education, and fundraising. Many rare species of plants are maintained in the nursery in case the plants in the garden are lost due to accident or frost. Some of these plants are irreplaceable. Others are offered for sale at plant sales where the public is educated about the vast diversity of plants and the conservation issues surrounding their populations in the wild. The money raised from these sales also generate a substantial amount of revenue: \$178,462 in 1999.

Plant sales encourage people to join Strybing Arboretum Society as members because discounts and early purchase of plants are a benefit of membership. The nursery also functions as a plant propagation learning center as numerous people, young and old alike, learn the intricacies of plant propagation and cultivation in the process of raising plants for sale.

Plant Collections Department

THE DEPARTMENT RECORDS AND documents Strybing's plant collections. Access to plant names and locations makes the Department a primary source of information on the approximately 7,000 kinds of plants grown in the Gardens. Major users of such information include Strybing staff and docents, local horticulture and botany classes, scientific researchers, horticultural and landscape professionals, and the general public.

This year, nine hundred ninety-three interpretive labels were engraved and placed in the Gardens, and 1,193 new accessions were processed, including seeds, cuttings and plants obtained from 60 local and international individuals and institutions.

Collections Manager Bian Tan served on the Program Committee for the 1999 AABGA Conference held in Vancouver, B.C. In the session "Bringing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to Life in Our Gardens," Bian Tan gave a slide presentation featuring Strybing's three year collaboration with the Bali Botanic Gardens based on the principles and articles of the CBD.

In July and August, Bian Tan and former Strybing librarian Brian Lym embarked on a plant collecting expedition to the mountains of Indonesia and the Philippines for Strybing's Southeast Asian Cloud Forest. In Indonesia, The Ethnobotanical Conservation Organization for SE Asia provided internal travel and logistics support, including securing the collecting permits. Mr. IBK Arinasa, director of the Bali Botanic Gardens, joined the expedition on Mt. Ranaka. Highlights included *Acer laurinum*, *Rhododendron zollingeri* and *R. renschianum*, all new to Strybing.

In the Philippines, a collaboration was established through Dr. Domingo Madulid, head of the Philippine National Herbarium, who led the expedition through the Central Cordilleras of Luzon island. Important collections included *Rhododendron quadrasianum*, a beautiful tree *Medinilla*, and a species of *Saurauia* that is most likely unnamed.

Library

DURING 1999, THE LIBRARY served nearly 19,500 patrons on site and by phone, mail and e-mail, an increase of 1,000 users over 1998. Librarians answered more than 4,500 reference questions. As a result of increased use of e-mail, mail reference has doubled in the past two years. 360 adults, 520 children, and 455 guests enjoyed orientations, story readings, and events hosted by the Library.

Nearly \$10,000 in gifts and endowment interest helped to keep collections development abreast of current literature in the fields of horticulture and related subjects. More than 1,300 books were contributed, both for used book sales and for the collection, and 600 books were cataloged into the Library.

The children's program was expanded by coordinating story times with special events hosted in the Gardens, thereby increasing the number of children served. More than 200 new children's books were cataloged, bringing the total children's collection to over 800.

The Library Strategic Planning Task Force defined space and staffing needs for the next five to ten years, as well as the general growth and direction of the Library. Its recommendations were forwarded to the Master Plan Implementation Committee.

Art sales took in 250% of the amount budgeted, and docent Molley Lowry agreed to take over chairmanship of Library art exhibits from the head librarian.

The fourth annual Library benefit featured a groundbreaking for the new Library Terrace Garden, presided over by Mayor Willie Brown and other dignitaries.



STRYBING'S ANNUAL LUNCHEON,
GARDEN FEAST, CELEBRATES
FOOD AND GARDENS.



Bookstore

THE STRYBING BOOKSTORE POSTED higher revenue for 1999 than for any previous year. Total sales were \$155,000; sales outside of the bookstore accounted for 20% of the total. One of the many benefits of membership in Strybing Arboretum Society is a 10% discount on bookstore merchandise; sales to members during 1999 accounted for 27% of total sales.

The bookstore is open daily and also serves informally as the visitor's center for Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. During 1999, 28 volunteers donated 2,100 hours of their time to staff the bookstore. The volunteers donated another 220 hours assisting with sales at Strybing educational classes and programs, the Helen Crocker Russell Library Benefit, Garden Feast, Strybing plant sales, San Francisco Flower and Garden Show, Books by the Bay, San Francisco Book Fair, and Greens & Gifts.

Volunteers

STRYBING ARBORETUM SOCIETY volunteers were asked to do more in 1999 than in perhaps any year in the Arboretum's history. In addition to their customary duties, volunteers helped run the ten day Up A Tree event, an undertaking as large in scope as the Annual Spring Plant Sale. Up A Tree introduced many new patrons and volunteers to our beautiful gardens.

Volunteer ranks increased by about 100 during 1999 bringing the total number close to 600. Strybing relies on volunteers to operate smoothly and efficiently. Volunteers continued their fine efforts in assisting operations in the Nursery, Bookstore, Library, Education and Membership departments, and in the Gardens themselves. Volunteers outnumber paid staff by more than 10-to-1, a fact that shows how indispensable they are to the smooth running of the Arboretum. Society and Garden staff express their gratitude to the many Strybing volunteers who, whether their commitment was one day or one hundred in 1999, were absolutely essential to a very successful year.



RENOWNED CHEF ALICE WATERS
SPOKE ABOUT "THE ETHICS OF
EATING" AT GARDEN FEAST.

Development

THE BAR WAS RAISED FOR THE development department in 1999 through many fundraising successes. A sold-out crowd of more than 400 food and garden enthusiasts gathered for the second annual Garden Feast luncheon on May 23 to hear Alice Waters, famed chef and proprietor of Chez Panisse, speak on the ethics of eating. Proceeds from this luncheon benefited the Children's Garden, where Bay Area children and youth experience horticulture, the wonders of nature, and learn to be stewards of the environment. Key grants from foundations and corporations, including the Louise M. Davies Foundation, GeoMar Foundation, David B. Gold Foundation, Macy's West, the Odell Fund, Mary Crocker Trust, and Crescent Porter Hale Foundation, helped enable the youth education program grow and enhance its services. Following the momentum of the Entry Garden of last year, two new garden installations — the Asian Discovery Garden and Library Terrace Garden — broke ground in the summer. Up A Tree, a unique showcase of creative and exciting tree houses and birdhouses, brought more than 30,000 visitors, supporters and nature enthusiasts to the Gardens. Membership saw a growth spurt and reached 4,000. Finally, the year ended on a high note. The Century Campaign — the 1999/2000 Circle Campaign — was extraordinarily successful. A record amount of more than \$250,000 was raised to move Strybing confidently into the new millennium.

Education

E DUCATION DEPARTMENT STAFF AND volunteers are responsible for bringing programs in botany, horticulture, and environmental education to the public and to Strybing Arboretum Society members. The department provides lectures, classes and workshops for adults, youth, docents, volunteers, and teachers. Visitors to the Gardens also participate in the program via walks and special events, such as Earth Day, Fragrance Day, and Halloween celebrations. The education director produces the Society's major publication, Leaflet & Calendar, and participates in developing interpretive signage for the Gardens.

An Education Plan was produced in 1999 that will help guide the activities and programs of the department for the next several years. The Docent Training program was revised to offer a challenging and rigorous eight months of study in the Gardens and 25 new docents joined the team. A new training course produced a team of volunteer Garden Greeters to welcome weekend visitors to the Gardens at the main entrances.

Over 5,300 adult students participated in 172 classes, workshops, and lectures this year. Highlights of the year included a chocolate lecture, a garden writing workshop, on-going botanical illustration studios, and a workshop on building simple garden structures, including tree houses. Botanical conservation issues, such as global loss of species biodiversity provided a strong theme for member forums and lectures. Four successful botanical and garden trips went to New Zealand, Santa Barbara, Italy, and Mexico's cloud forest. The cloud forest trip especially reinforced Strybing's relationship with another country on conservation issues.



YOUNGSTERS LEARN TO PLANT BEANS, PICK STRAWBERRIES, AND MAKE THEIR OWN SALAD IN THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN.

Youth Education

1999 WAS AN ACTIVE YEAR FOR THE Youth Education Program. A School Walk Assistant was hired to help manage the extensive school walk program, new office space markedly improved the working environment, and an attractive brochure highlighting the varied Youth Education projects was completed. A new partnership with the Alice Fong Yu School resulted in the creation of a year-round program in the Children's Garden, bringing every student from kindergarten through eighth grade for multiple garden visits. Two teacher workshops enhanced outreach to teachers, while a new training module was developed to train docents to lead children's walks.

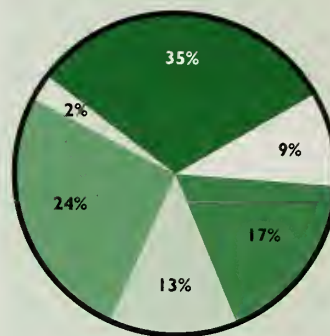
In 1999, the partnership of staff, docents, interns and other volunteers supported over 12,500 hours of visitor time in the gardens. 4,500 children came as part of school or summer groups, and close to 1,000 adults participated in these programs. 1,350 visitors in family groups participated in a variety of on-site programs, including garden celebrations, while another 2,000 were served off-site.

1999 OPERATING RESULTS



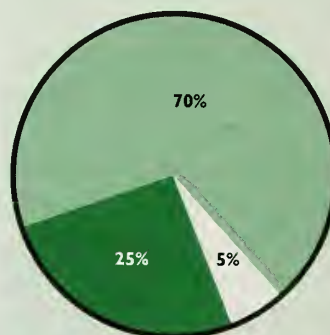
1999 Garden Facts

- 200,000 visitors to Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens
- 4,000 members of Strybing Arboretum Society
- 993 interpretive labels engraved and placed in the Gardens
- 1,193 new accessions processed, including seeds and propagules obtained from 60 local and international individuals and institutions
- 10,000 children/families served by youth education programs
- 172 classes and tours offered
- 5,300 education program participants
- 40,000 volunteer hours logged by 500 volunteers
- 34,000 plants sold at Strybing plant sales
- 19,500 library users at the Helen Crocker Russell Library
- 745 walks given through the Gardens by docents
- 335 appearances by Strybing Arboretum Society in print and visual media



Revenues

Contributions	35%
Membership	9%
Bookstore & Plant Sales	17%
Events & Other	13%
Investment Income	24%
Education	2%



Expenses

Programs & Membership	70%
Development	5%
Administration	25%

donors

\$10,000 or more

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